

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 1 SEP 49

SUBJECT 1. Zehdenick Forst Training Area, Mecklenburg
2. Soviet OB Notes: Fürstenberg, Prenzlau, and Neustrelitz

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* See below.

1. Zehdenick Forst Area (U70). 12-16 July 49

a. [redacted] reports that it is larger than first suspected. Actual boundaries appear to run roughly from Dannewalde (U61) north (passing Brederiche on the west) to the Stolz See, northeast to slightly south of Lyden (U72), along the rail line to Templin (U61) through Himmelspring (U61), and back to Dannewalde.

b. Two forest workers said that a large tank park is located three kilometers east of Braderiche (U61). Approximately 200 tanks, half of them JS types, are housed in temporary shelters north and south of the Braderiche-Tangerndorf (U72) road. A forestry official confirmed this, adding that there were also many artillery weapons in the same sector.

c. The dismantled railroad line, Zehdenick-Templin, has been speedily rebuilt and was reopened on 15 July.

d. Heavy vehicle traffic was noted in the Braderiche and Himmelsfort areas (U72), coming from Fürstenberg (U62) and leaving Braderiche in the direction of Tangerndorf.

e. All roads running west out of Himmelspring are blocked and patrolled. Some Himmelspring farms are occupied by troops and a radio station, visited by many couriers from the camp area, is located in one farm yard. About 2 1/2 km southwest of the town, where the road crosses the rail line, several hundred laborers are laying a new stone road running north-west; it seems likely that this will be the main entry into the training grounds. New electric lines also are being put up, leading northwest. The first barracks have been erected 700 meters west of Himmelspring. Vehicles [redacted] entered the restricted area along with many German trucks hauling chalk, cement, glass, boards, barracks parts, electrical apparatus, etc.

2. Prenzlau (U04). 12-16 July

a. Artillerie Reserve - Housekeeping troops only. No vehicle traffic.
b. Local residents state: the town is held by armored troops who arrived

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during January 1949, departed during June, and are now said to be in the area west of Kammelspring and Vogelsang (U70); strength, about 2,000 men; equipment, 150 tanks of which half are JS types.

c. There are sixty officers' families in Prenzlau. There are no troops in the area Prenzlau-Templin-Joachimsthal.

3. Fürstenberg (U52), 15-16 July

a. During the night of 15-16 July, eighteen JS-3 tanks were unloaded at the Bahnhof and later took to the road leading towards Bradersiche.

b. The town proper is not heavily occupied. At the Ravensbrück concentration camp there are 800 recruits, who were seen training without weapons. Motorized rifle troops were seen in this area

4. Neustrelitz (U54), 17 July

Barracks within the town are lightly occupied. One in the southern part of Neustrelitz, however, contains 700-800 recruits, some of whom wear armored insignia. Barracks on the Neustrelitz-Penzlin road were reoccupied on the morning of 17 July by former tenants returning from training at a range west of the town. Accompanying them were twelve T-34's and trucks

5. Comment: Information in Paragraph 1 follows up [] first report on this area. [] At the boundaries are now given, this region includes both the Zehdenick Forst and Himmelpfort Forst, a considerable territory lying immediately north of the well known Schorffelde training grounds.

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